

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 10037

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: (OVIP VANCE, CYRUS), MARR, BB, US
SUBJ: FORDE-TODMAN MEETING HAVFAC NEGOTIATION

1. BARBADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FORDE AND ASSISTANT
SECRETARY TODMAN MET 1-3/4 HOURS OCTOBER 1. THIS TELEGRAM
COVERS DISCUSSION OF HOPED FOR ADAMS-CARTER MEETING AND
NAVFAC NEGOTIATIONS. OTHER SUBJECTS BY SEPTELS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER FORDE MENTIONED THAT PRIME MINISTER
ADAMS WAS UPSET THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ARRANGE A MEETING
FOR HIM WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. FORDE ADDED HOWEVER, THAT
HE UNDERSTANDS THE DIFFICULTY, PARTICULARLY SINCE ADAMS
WAS UNABLE TO BE IN NEW YORK DURING THE PERIOD THAT THE
PRESIDENT PLANS TO BE THERE.

3. NAVAL FACILITY NEGOTIATIONS - FORDE SAID AND TODMAN
AGREED THAT WE ARE "MILES APART" IN OUR POSITIONS REGARDING
COMPENSATION. HE SAID THAT WHILE BARBADOS WOULD BE PLEASED
TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. FOR CONTINUED LEASE OF
THE FACILITIES, BARBADOS IS ALSO PREPARED TO SEE THEM CLOSED
IF A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT CANNOT BE REACHED
RELATIVELY QUICKLY. FORDE RAISED THE ISSUE OF PAYMENT FOR USE
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OF AIRPORTS, ROADS, ETC. REFERRING TO AN EARLIER ROUND
OF NEGOTIATIONS, HE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT OUR INTERPRETATION
THAT COMPENSATION WOULD BE MADE FOR ACTUAL "DAMAGE" TO
AIRPORTS AND ROADS IS AN INVALID ONE, AND THAT A FEE FOR
"USE" IS MORE APPROPRIATE. IN ADDITION, BARBADOS HAD BEEN
COUNTING ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NUMBER OF PROJECTS BY
THE U.S. IN CONNECTION WITH THE FACILITIES, AS HAD OCCURRED

IN OTHER COUNTRIES. HE SAID IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE THAT BARBADOS BE COMPENSATED BASED ON A CALCULATION OF THE VALUE OF PROJECTS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED. HE CONSIDERED IT INCORRECT FOR THE U.S. SIDE TO HAVE CALLED THIS "RETROACTIVE COMPENSATION" FOR THE USE OF THE FACILITY. FINALLY, HE SAID THAT HE REALIZED THE U.S. CONGRESS DISLIKES THE IDEA OF LINKAGE BETWEEN NAVFAC NEGOTIATIONS AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BUT IT IS POLITICALLY NECESSARY DOMESTICALLY IN BARBADOS THAT ASSISTANCE BE PART OF ANY SETTLEMENT.

4. TODMAN EXPLAINED HOW THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, WHICH PAYS FOR THESE FACILITIES, ARRIVES AT A VALUE FOR A SPECIFIC FACILITY BASED ON COST COMPARISONS OF ALTERNATIVES. AGREEMENT THAT A DECISION SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED, HE SAID WE ARE VIGOROUSLY PURSUING THIS AND EXPECT THAT WE COULD BE READY TO RESPOND TO THE BARBADIANS SHORTLY. TODMAN SAID THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MUST TREAT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND BASE NEGOTIATIONS SEPARATELY. ASSISTANCE TO ANY COUNTRY IS CONSIDERED ON ITS OWN MERITS. IT MAY HAPPEN THAT CONDITIONS WARRANT ASSISTANCE IN A COUNTRY COINCIDENTALLY WITH BASE NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, THERE CAN BE NO LINKAGE. HERE THE CONVERSATION TURNED TO U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, TREATED IN SEPTEL. VANCE

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